



DHEC's Office of Solid Waste Reduction and Recycling

For Your Information...

Waste Reduction Tips for the Holidays

New Years Day

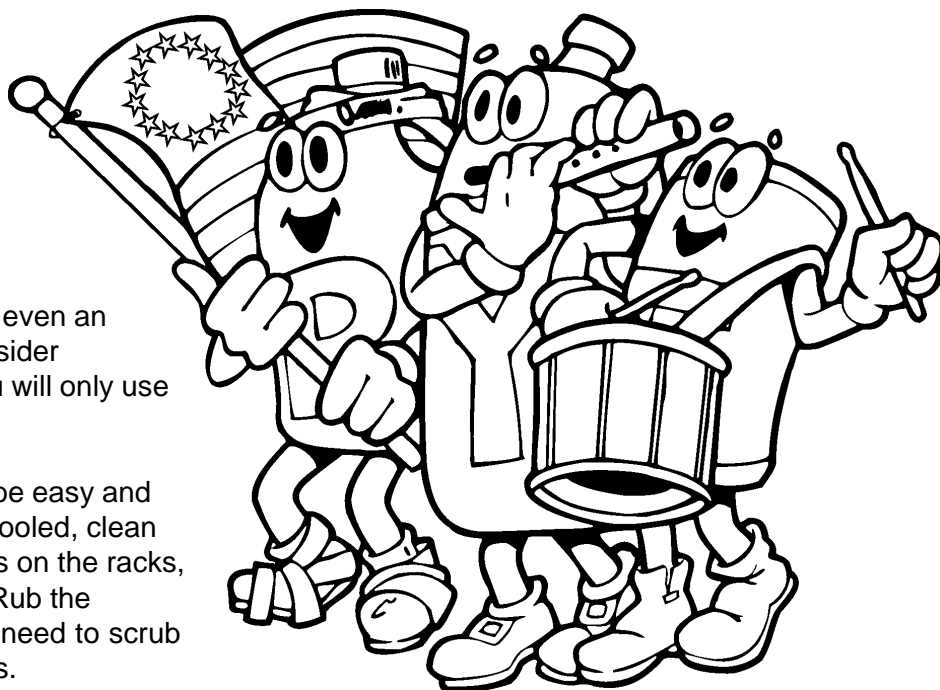
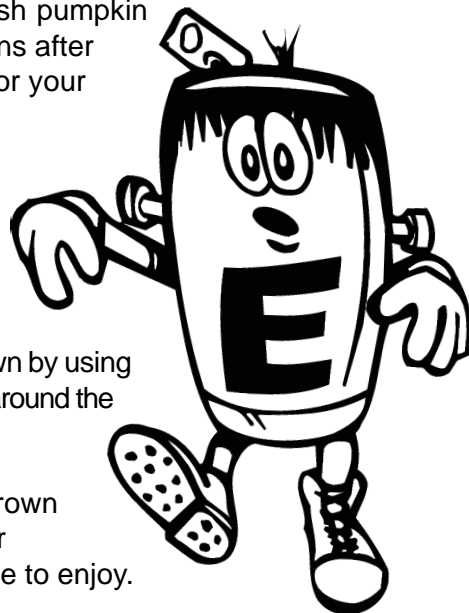
- Start the new year off with a “bang” by making waste reduction and recycling your No. 1 New Year’s resolution.
- Score big when watching the bowl games by eliminating disposable plates and cups from your “tail-gate” party. Use cloth napkins in team colors and reusable plastic and ceramic plates to add fun to your meal as you cheer for your favorite team.
- Commit to purchasing longer lasting products such as compact florescent light bulbs and rechargeable batteries. You will save money, conserve energy and make less trash.

Fourth of July

- Declare your Independence for a “waste-free” celebration by boycotting use of disposable items such as paper plates and cups at your holiday cookout.
- Lawn grooming for your holiday cookout is a breeze when mowers, weed eaters and hedge trimmers are kept in tip-top shape. Regular maintenance prolongs the life of yard equipment and ensures maximum performance.
- Need extra picnic tables, chairs or even an industrial size barbecue grill? Consider borrowing or renting items that you will only use occasionally.
- Cleaning up after barbecuing can be easy and toxic-free. After the charcoal has cooled, clean the grill by placing wet newspapers on the racks, close the lid and wait for an hour. Rub the newspapers across the racks. No need to scrub or to use special cleaning products.

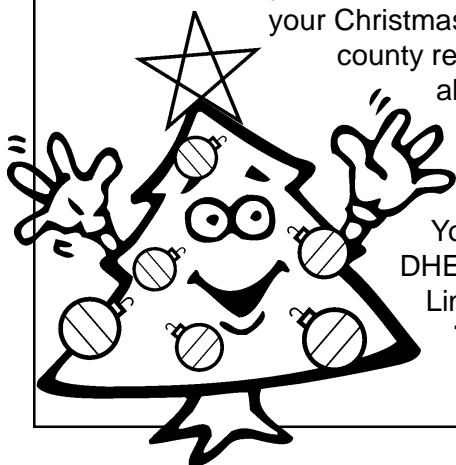
Halloween

- Compost fresh pumpkin jack-o-lanterns after using them for your Halloween decorations.
- Want a trick-or-treat costume that is different? Make your own by using items found around the house.
- Donate outgrown costumes for someone else to enjoy.
- Use rechargeable batteries in your Halloween flashlight.



'Grinding of the Greens'

When the holidays are over, remember to recycle your Christmas tree. Call your county recycling coordinator about the "Grinding of the Greens" compost program.



You can also call DHEC's Recycling Hot Line, **1-800-768-7348**, for more information.

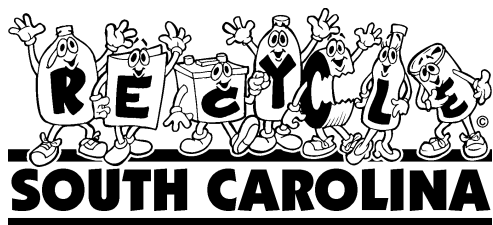
Thanksgiving

- Purchase your Thanksgiving cooking items in bulk quantities and use the extra for your Christmas menus. This eliminates extra trips to the grocery store and reduces excess packaging.
- When inviting guests to your Thanksgiving dinner, ask them to bring reusable containers to take home left overs.
- Make your Thanksgiving meal special by using china, glassware and cloth napkins instead of disposable plates, cups and napkins.
- Decorate your table by making a centerpiece using an assortment of colorful fruits, vegetables and nuts.

Christmas, Hanukkah and Kwanzaa

- Consider gifts that keep on giving such as a battery charger, a perpetual calendar or an erasable message board. Gift certificates for movies, theaters or restaurants are also "waste-free" gifts.
- Bring your own bag to the store when you go shopping. If you must take a bag, choose one that you can recycle or reuse.
- Buy durable toys made from wood or metal so they can be passed down to others.
- Wrap gifts in old maps, newspapers, Sunday comics or fancy holiday gift bags. Kids' artwork is perfect wrapping for presents to proud grandparents.
- Save gift boxes, bows and gift wrap to use next year. Keep the fronts of old greeting cards to use as gift tags or send them to St. Jude's Ranch for Children, 100 St. Jude's Street, Boulder City, NV 89005-1618.
- Purchase larger rolls of film. They are cheaper and reduce waste.
- Decorate your home with holly, cedar, berries, fruits and nuts, all of which can be composted after use. Use popcorn and cranberries to decorate the tree.
- Compost your food waste. Fruits and vegetables and their peels, pits and seeds are all perfect for composting – a great natural fertilizer.

For more holiday recycling information, contact DHEC's Office of Solid Waste Reduction and Recycling at **1-800-768-7348** or visit our Web site at www.scdhec.net/recycle.



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DHEC's Office of Solid Waste Reduction and Recycling FYIs provide general information on environmental topics. Readers are encouraged to reproduce this material. For more information about solid waste issues, please call **1-800-768-7348** or visit our Web site at www.scdhec.net/recycle. Please send written correspondence to: DHEC's Office of Solid Waste Reduction and Recycling, 2600 Bull Street, Columbia, SC 29201.